

Dec. 8, 2016

Contact: media@restore.la.gov

La. Office of Community Development to Tour Flood-Affected Areas for Public Input

Series of Meetings Scheduled Across State in December

BATON ROUGE, La. – The state Office of Community Development has scheduled a series of public meetings for each of Louisiana's regions that were impacted by the historic 2016 floods. The meetings are free and no reservations are required.

The meetings provide residents an opportunity to view and comment on the flood recovery homeowner, renters and small business assistance programs that were recommended earlier by the Restore Louisiana Task Force. That action plan can be found online here. Versions in Spanish and Vietnamese will be available beginning Dec. 14.

Those recovery assistance programs are funded through an initial \$438 million federal appropriation through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. After the official public comment period ends Jan. 3, the state will submit the plan to HUD for final federal approval.

The Office of Community Development is the state agency working with the Restore Louisiana Task Force to coordinate flood-recovery efforts.

Public meetings are scheduled as follows:

 Livingston Parish: 5:30-7 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 12, in Parish Council Chambers at the Livingston Parish Governmental Building at 20355 Government Blvd. in Livingston

- Lafayette Parish: 5:30-7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 13, at the Rosa Parks Multi-Modal Transportation Center at 101 Jefferson St. in Lafayette
- Rapides Parish: 5:30-7 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 14, at 910 Main St. in Pineville
- Caddo Parish: 4:30-6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 15, at the Bill Cockrell Recreation Center, 4109 Pines Road in Shreveport
- Ouachita Parish: 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. during the Restore Louisiana Task Force meeting on Friday, Dec. 16, at the West Monroe Convention Center at 901 Ridge Ave.
- East Baton Rouge Parish: 5:30-7 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 19, at BREC Headquarters at 6201 Florida Blvd.
- Ascension Parish: 5:30-7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 20, at the Ascension Parish Governmental Complex at 615 E. Worthey St. in Gonzales

In addition, the Office of Community Development will host an online webinar discussion on the state's action plan on Wednesday, Dec. 28 available statewide. Check the OCD Disaster Recovery Unit website for details as they come available.

Residents can also check out <u>restore.la.gov</u> to sign up for email updates on the recovery effort.

About the Restore Louisiana Task Force

The Restore Louisiana Task Force comprises 21 individuals from throughout the state who were appointed by Gov. John Bel Edwards to oversee the rebuilding process after historic flooding in March and August 2016 impacted 51 parishes. The Task Force's mission is divided into six categories: community planning, economic, health and social services, housing, infrastructure and natural and cultural resources. For more information, visit restore.la.gov.

###